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Potato Stocks

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ORIGINAL

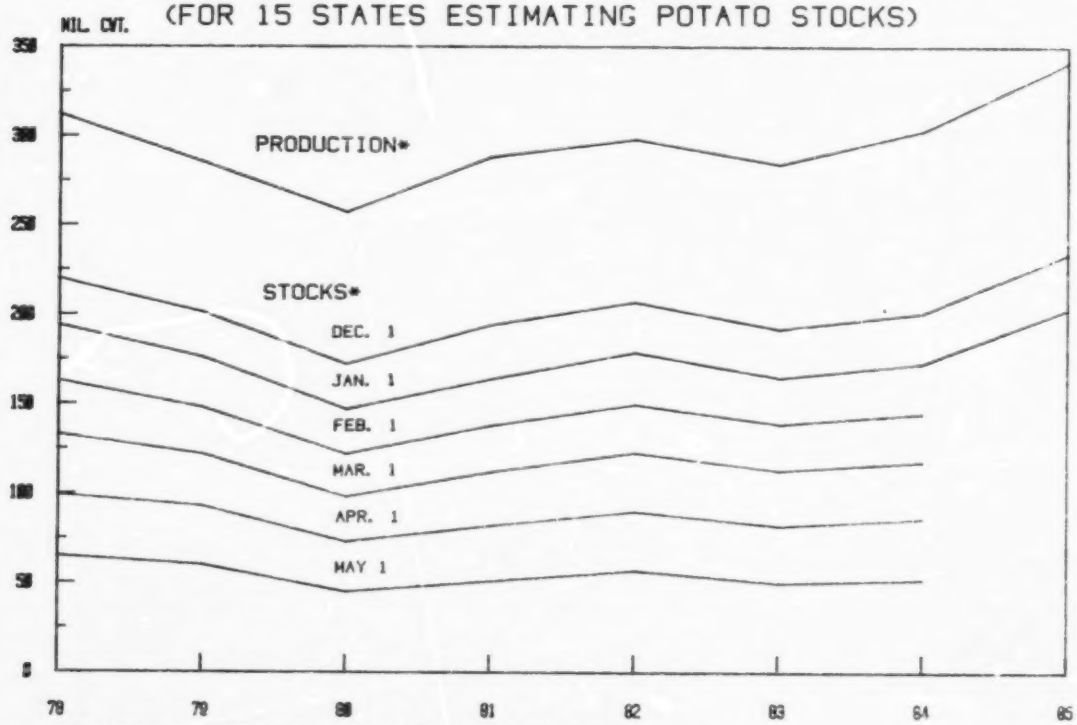
POTATO STOCKS UP 16 PERCENT

POTATO STOCKS on January 1, 1986 totaled 201 million cwt, up 16 percent from last year and 22 percent above two years ago. The January 1 stocks averaged 59 percent of fall production this season compared with a 57 percent share last year. Losses are also up sharply, running 32 percent higher than last year. Russets made up 77 percent of the stocks; while whites covered 20 percent and reds 3 percent.

(Comments continued on page 4)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

(FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



*PRODUCTION BY CROP YEAR. STOCKS BY MONTHS FOLLOWING HARVEST.

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* NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent. However, this year losses are running much higher than normal. *
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TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS, 15 MAJOR STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
				1,000 CWT			
1975	266,422	181,720	156,220	129,710	102,850	70,970	
1976	294,978	198,630	172,230	142,030	112,830	81,130	
1977	295,421	202,550	175,300	147,930	119,850	88,680	
1978	311,981	219,850	193,520	162,980	132,570	99,250	64,830
1979	284,940	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550	59,535
1980	256,518	172,030	147,010	122,065	97,680	72,660	44,546
1981	287,710	193,610	164,380	137,820	111,780	82,270	50,760
1982	298,031	206,525	178,980	150,200	122,500	90,105	57,305
1983	284,344	192,150	165,330	138,900	112,730	81,740	50,365
1984	303,384	201,410	173,380	144,760	118,400	86,440	52,465
1985	340,792	233,775	201,300				

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1984 AND 1985 CROPS

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
				1,000 CWT				
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1984-85	19,000	24,310	29,200	34,010	39,510	44,650	57,410
	1985-86	17,830	22,980					
MAINE 2/	1984-85	1,820	2,410	3,015	3,520	4,330	5,185	6,550
	1985-86	2,215	2,920					
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1984-85	20,745	24,690	29,345	33,560	38,815	43,380	51,670
	1985-86	21,590	25,665					
OTHER STATES 3/	1984-85	5,695	7,510	9,210	10,930	12,745	14,715	21,005
	1985-86	6,470	7,990					
TOTAL	1984-85	47,260	58,920	70,770	82,020	95,400	107,930	136,635
	1985-86	48,105	59,555					

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH, MINN, N DAK, OR WIS. 2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK, AND WIS.

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TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON JANUARY 1, 1985 AND JANUARY 1, 1986

STATE	CROP OF 1984			CROP OF 1985		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS JAN 1, 1985	JAN 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS JAN 1, 1986	JAN 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	7,280	4,600	63	7,878	4,000	51
COLO	17,225	10,950	64	17,920	12,900	72
IDAHO	86,600	54,500	63	102,515	65,000	63
MAINE	21,360	15,000	70	27,160	19,800	73
MICH	12,540	6,500	52	12,100	6,600	55
MINN	13,775	10,000	73	14,145	9,900	70
MONT	1,924	1,830	95	1,890	1,400	74
NEBR	2,480	1,550	63	2,173	1,500	69
N Y - L I	3,577	1,100	31	3,870	1,450	37
- UPSTATE	6,630	2,700	41	6,125	2,200	36
N DAK	20,615	12,900	63	23,630	16,000	68
OHIO	2,418	650	27	2,465	500	20
OREG	23,525	12,900	55	26,701	15,700	59
PA	5,160	3,100	60	5,720	3,350	59
WASH	56,925	25,900	45	62,370	30,000	48
WIS	21,350	9,200	43	24,130	11,000	46
15 STATE TOTAL	303,384	173,380	57	340,792	201,300	59

RELIABILITY OF JANUARY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1 stocks estimate is 2.4 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 201 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.4 percent or approximately 4.8 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.1 percent or approximately 8.3 million cwt.

The 10-year (1976-85) record of the differences between the January 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 4.02 million cwt, ranging from .52 million to 5.94 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the January 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

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TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS, JANUARY 1, 1986, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	6		1/94	100
IDAHO			1/ 2/100	100
MAINE		70	30	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	18	38	44	100
N Y		2/ 3/100		100
N DAK	17	56	27	100
OREG			1/ 2/100	100
PA		2/100		100
WASH			1/ 2/100	100
WIS	8	17	75	100
11 STATE TOTAL	3	20	77	100

1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
3/ INCLUDES SMALL AMOUNT OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

Potato stocks in the 3 EASTERN STATES totaled 26.8 million cwt, 22 percent greater than the last two years. Maine stocks of 19.8 million cwt are up 32 percent; Pennsylvania cellars, at 3.35 million cwt, gained 8 percent; but New York areas, combining for 3.65 million cwt, dropped 4 percent from a year ago.

In the 6 CENTRAL STATES, January 1 potato stocks totaled 45.5 million cwt, up 12 percent from last year and 27 percent above two years ago. Nearly all of the increased stocks over last year are held in North Dakota and Wisconsin; up 24 and 20 percent, respectively.

The 6 WESTERN STATES stored a total of 129 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1986, up 17 percent from last year and 20 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks of 65.0 million cwt are up 19 percent from last year. However, remaining stocks carry an estimated 12 percent that will be unmarketable due to frost damage. Washington, at 30.0 million cwt is up 16 percent; Oregon storage of 15.7 million cwt is up 22 percent; and Colorado stocks at 12.9 million cwt are up 18 percent. California and Montana carried fewer potatoes in storage than last year.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest to January 1 totaled a record 139 million cwt compared with 130 million cwt moved last year. Cullage, loss, and shrinkage, pushed by heavy frost damage during harvest in Idaho and Montana, totaled 24.9 million cwt this season compared with 18.9 million cwt last year.

Cumulative PROCESSING in the 8 major processing States totaled 59.6 million cwt of potatoes this year compared with 58.9 million last year. During December, processors took in 11.5 million cwt, 2 percent fewer than a year earlier.

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